



MINUTES

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

Monday, September 9, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Chair
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Kelly B. Miles
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Rex P. Shipp
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove
Rep. Norman K. Thurston

Rep. Raymond P. Ward

Members Absent:

Rep. Brad M. Daw, Chair
Sen. David G. Buxton
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Karin M. Rueff, Policy Analyst
Mr. Daniel M. Cheung, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Ericka A. Evans, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Rikka Strong, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Nathan Erickson, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Christensen called meeting to order at 11:13 a.m.

1 . Committee Business

The minutes of the August 21, 2019, meeting were not ready for approval by the committee.

2 . Medical Cannabis

[Medical Cannabis Amendments](#)

[Summary: Medical Cannabis Amendments](#)

Sen. Vickers presented draft legislation "Medical Cannabis Amendments" (2019S1-0001/004) and answered questions from the committee.

Richard Oborn, Director, Center for Medical Cannabis, Utah Department of Health, answered questions from the committee.

Sen. Vickers and Mr. Oborn continued answering questions from the committee.

Desiree Hennessy, Utah Patients Coalition, spoke in favor of protecting the use of medical cannabis by individuals involved in court proceedings.

Connor Boyack, President, Libertas Institute, addressed the use of medical cannabis by individuals involved in court proceedings.

Sen. Vickers continued his presentation and answered questions from the committee.

Dani Palmer, attorney and former drug rehabilitation worker, expressed concerns about provisions of the draft legislation protecting the use of medical cannabis by individuals involved in court proceedings.

Justin Arriola, who works on behalf of several medical cannabis patients groups and with substance abuse harm reduction communities, indicated that cannabis is much safer to use than opioids.

Megan Keller, addressed the protection of parental rights in child welfare court proceedings involving parents who use medical cannabis.

Steven Beck, a patient, indicated he uses cannabis to treat headaches.

Sen. Vickers continued his presentation and answered questions from the committee.

Cameron Diehl, Executive Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns, addressed local government issues related to the draft legislation.

Andrew Rigby, Director of Medical Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Programs, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, addressed implementation of Utah's medical cannabis program.

Sen. Vickers continued his presentation and answered questions from the committee.

Chair Christensen invited public comment.

Mark Brinton, Utah Medical Association, suggested that the draft legislation be amended to allow the patient portal consulting medical provider to be a pharmacist or other medical provider, such as a physician, rather than only a pharmacist.

Nate Kizerian, a caregiver, recommended committee members speak with him to understand patients' needs.

Walter Plum, Drug Safe Utah, addressed the locating of medical dispensing pharmacies and other provisions of the draft legislation.

Gayle Ruzicka, Utah Eagle Forum, questioned the draft legislation's elimination of the state-central-fill approach to dispensing medical cannabis.

Justin Arriola, addressed several issues related to the draft legislation, including issues related to the patient portal.

Tom Paskett, Executive Director, Utah Cannabis Association, indicated the association is encouraged by some of the changes addressed by the draft legislation and noted there are many more medical cannabis issues to be addressed. He highlighted the importance of getting some of the bureaucracy out of the way in order to make cannabis available by March 1.

Pam Harrison, licensed clinical social worker, implored the committee to keep the state on track to meet the March 1 deadline. She also spoke in favor of the draft legislation's addition of medical cannabis couriers and expressed her hope that the cost of couriers could be kept down.

Tiffany Mallow, parent of two medical cannabis patients, spoke in favor of the draft legislation's patient protections and its inclusion of medical cannabis couriers, indicated that 12 medical cannabis pharmacies will not be enough, and expressed concern about the cost of medical cannabis couriers.

Connor Boyack responded to issues raised during public comment.

Sen. Vickers concluded his presentation.

3 . Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Escamilla moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 5.



Yeas-12

Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. B. King
Rep. K. Miles
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. R. Spendlove
Rep. N. Thurston
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Ward

Nays-0

Absent-5

Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. D. Buxton
Rep. B. Daw
Rep. S. Eliason
Rep. K. Lisonbee

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.